MARVEL COMICS
MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS
WOLVERINE
VS.
WILD CHILD
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MARVEL® COMICS PRESENTS

Cover—RICH HOWELL
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Page

WOLVERINE 1

The Wilding

Part 2 of 3

"THE FIRST CUT IS THE DEEPEST"

He has come to his old stomping grounds of Ottawa, Canada as Logan—to get away from the building pressures he has felt at home.

Now he must revert to form—a hunter in search of a deadly prey.

The question will become—who is the predator and who is the prey? Wolverine or Wildchild?

Plot — ROB LIEFELD
Script — FABIAN NICIEZA
Art — ROB LIEFELD
Letterer — JADE MOEDE
Colorist — BRAD VANCATA

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COMET MAN 9

A Family Affair

Part 3 of 4

"REUNION"

Max is on holiday studying and enjoying American culture, while Dr. Beckley is searching for his ten year old son, *Benny*. The boy has been in a catatonic state for months, and last issue, they were reunited. Beckley doesn't know it but he is currently a guest in the home of his worst enemy—his estranged brother, known as the *Superior* . . .

Writers — BILL MUMY/MIGUEL FERRER
Co-Scripter — KELLY JONES
Penciler — KELLY JONES
Inker — GERRY TALAOC
Letterer — AGUSTIN MAS
Colorist — JOHN WILCOX

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RICK JONES 17

"LAST RESORT"

Rick Jones—he's a former partner of the Hulk, of Captain America, of Captain Marvel, and he's been an unofficial Avenger. Lately, though he's been concentrating on his career as a rock musician, and keeping out of danger. At least he *was*, until his vacation to the last resort.

By — RICH HOWELL

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HULK 25

"KIDS WILL BE KIDS"

By day, he is famed physicist Dr. Robert Bruce Banner. By night, thanks to the effects of a gamma bomb, he is a powerful, dark and distorted reflection of himself and humanity known as The Incredible Hulk!

Writer — RON WILSON
Penciler — RON WILSON
Inker — TOM MORGAN
Letterer — DIANA ALBERS
Colorist — BRAD VANCATA

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POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO: MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS, c/o MARVEL COMICS, SUBSCRIPTION DEPARTMENT, 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016.

COLD NIGHT IN OTTAWA FOR A STAKEOUT...
...BUT THINGS SHOULD BE HEATIN' UP IN A MINUTE.
THE WILDING
AND THAT'S WHAT I'M HUNTING TONIGHT. AN ANIMAL.
THIS IS THE LAST ADDRESS WE HAD IN ALPHA FLIGHT'S RECORDS. MUST BE ACCURATE
BEEN WATCHING WILDCHILD'S APARTMENT FOR HOURS NOW.
FIGURE HE'S GOTTA BE COMIN' BACK SOON.
DISGUSTING. BUT THAT'S WHAT WILDCHILD IS. A DISGUSTING SADISTIC ANIMAL...
PART II
THE FIRST CUT IS THE DEEPEST!
FEATURING:
WOLVERINE!
AN ANIMAL ALWAYS BRINGS THE NIGHT'S HUNT BACK TO HIS HOME.
HEATHER HUDSON WENT IN TWENTY MINUTES AGO. SHE DOESN'T KNOW I'M HERE.
...WHO'S CROSSED THE LINE AN' STARTED KILLIN' FOR FUN AN' NOT SURVIVAL.
DOESN'T KNOW I'M STILL ALIVE. I SHOULD DO SOMETHIN' TO CORRECT THAT. THE LADY AN' I GO BACK A LONG WAY.

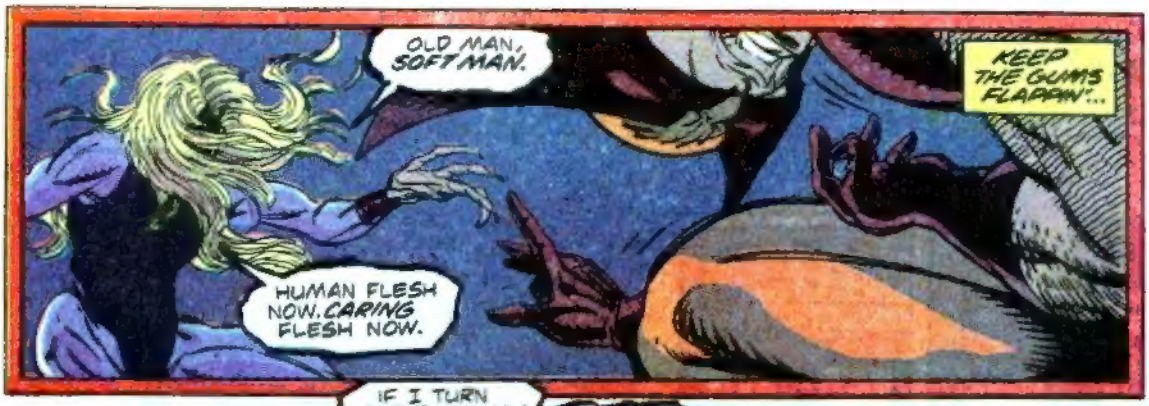
YUP...BUT NOT HERE. NOT NOW.
I CAN'T SMELL HIM. SHE'S GONNA WAIT IF SHE'S WEARIN' THE UNION SUIT, SHE'LL BE OKAY...
THE SMELL IS OVERWHELMING. RATS. URINE. EXCREMENT. SPOILED FOOD. HOW COULD HE HAVE GOTTEN THIS BAD?
AND IF HE COMES BACK, HOW FAR AM I WILLING TO GO TO STOP HIM?
IS HE A SICK MAN WHO NEEDS HELP OR A RABID ANIMAL WHO SHOULD BE PUT TO SLEEP?
SHRAKK
Aaaghk!
KNOW YOU. I DO. HUDSON? YES.
WIFE TO DIE LIKE HUSBAND. METAL AND FLESH, BLEEDING AS ONE.
HE'S RIPPED THROUGH MY COSTUME'S CIRCUITRY.
IT'S NOT RESPONDING TO MY CYBERNETIC SIGNALS.
SHE'S IN TROUBLE!
HE'S THERE! HOW COME I DIDN'T SMELL HIM?
TEN SECONDS. ALL I NEED. JUST GIVE ME TEN SECONDS.

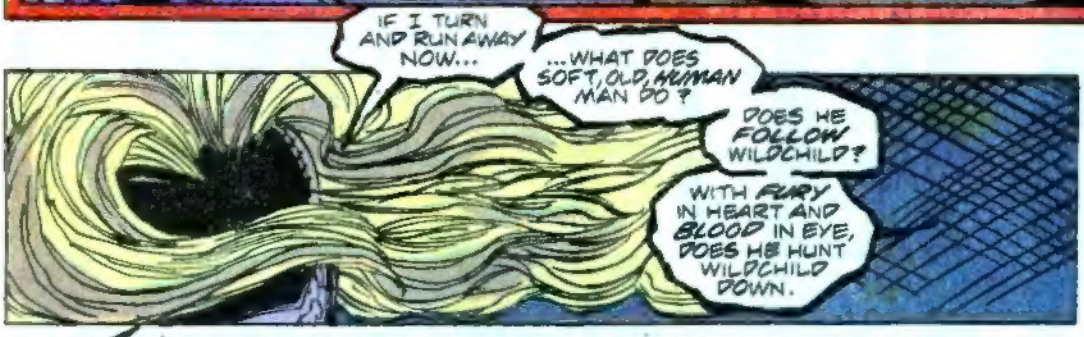
♫ WHISTLE WHILE YOU WORK. ♫
♫ HEATHER'S SUCH A JERK. ♫
HE'S CRAZY. PUT HIM TO SLEEP.
BUT I CAN'T.
LOSING BLOOD. POWERS DOWN. NO MATCH FOR HIS STRENGTH.
I DON'T WANT TO DIE LIKE THIS.
I'M SORRY, MAC. LOGAN. MADISON. I'M SORRY--
SHHRUK
OOOH, I BET THAT HURT. YES?
ALIVE. HOW ABOUT ONE MORE, EH?

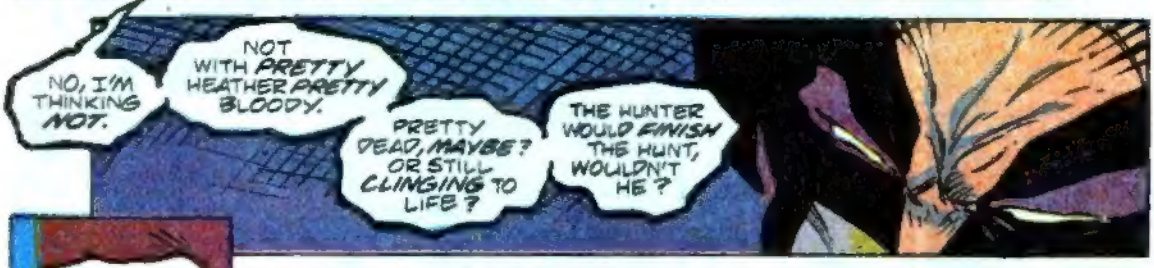
KCHASH
THE STENCH OF THIS PLACE ASSAULTS MY SENSES.
BUT ONE SCENT IS STRONGER THAN ALL THE OTHERS.
THE SCENT OF BLOOD. HEATHER'S BLOOD.
SNIKT
THIS AIN'T A MAN IN NEED OF HELP...
...IT'S AN ANIMAL IN NEED OF SLAUGHTER.

AN' I'M GONNA BE THE BUTCHER.
SHUKK
SHUKK
SHTHRUK

OKAY THEN, THIS IS ONE COW THAT'S FIGHTIN' BACK.
KTHUNK
WANTED YOU.
OH, YES.
LONG TIME.
SHTHRUK
COW FIGHTS BACK BUT GOOD.
I CAN LIVE WITH THAT.
OLD MAN YOU ARE.




IF I TURN AND RUN AWAY NOW...
...WHAT DOES SOFT, OLD, HUMAN MAN DO?
DOES HE FOLLOW WILDCHILD?
WITH FURY IN HEART AND BLOOD IN EYE, DOES HE HUNT WILDCHILD DOWN.


NO, I'M THINKING NOT.
NOT WITH PRETTY HEATHER PRETTY BLOODY.
PRETTY DEAD, MAYBE? OR STILL CLINGING TO LIFE?
THE HUNTER WOULD FINISH THE HUNT, WOULDN'T HE?

BUT THE MAN WOULD HELP SAVE THE LIFE OF A FRIEND.

A FRIEND WHO NEEDS HIM BADLY.

THREE HOURS WAITIN' IN OTTAWA GENERAL HOSPITAL.
I LAY LOW SO NO ONE SEES ME. CAN'T AFFORD TO BE RECOGNIZED.
THE DOCTOR TENDIN' HEATHER IS NAMED GILOSKI. HE PATCHED ME UP A TIME OR TWO IN THE PAST. HE'LL KEEP QUIET. GOOD MAN. SMART MAN KNOWS THE GAME.
DOC--?
SHE LOST A LOT OF BLOOD.
HAD SOME DAMAGE TO HER INTESTINAL TRACT. TOOK MORE STITCHES THAN WE HAD THREAD IT SEEMED...
...BUT SHE SHOULD PULL THROUGH.
AND I TAKE IT WHEN SHE WAKES UP, SHE SHOULDN'T KNOW YOU WERE HERE, RIGHT?
LIKE I SAID, GILOSKI KNOWS THE GAME.
AN' SO DO I.
ALL RIGHT, WILDCHILD... I'M DONE PLAYIN' THE PART OF THE MAN NOW...
...LET THE HUNT BEGIN...
CONCLUDES NEXT ISSUE.

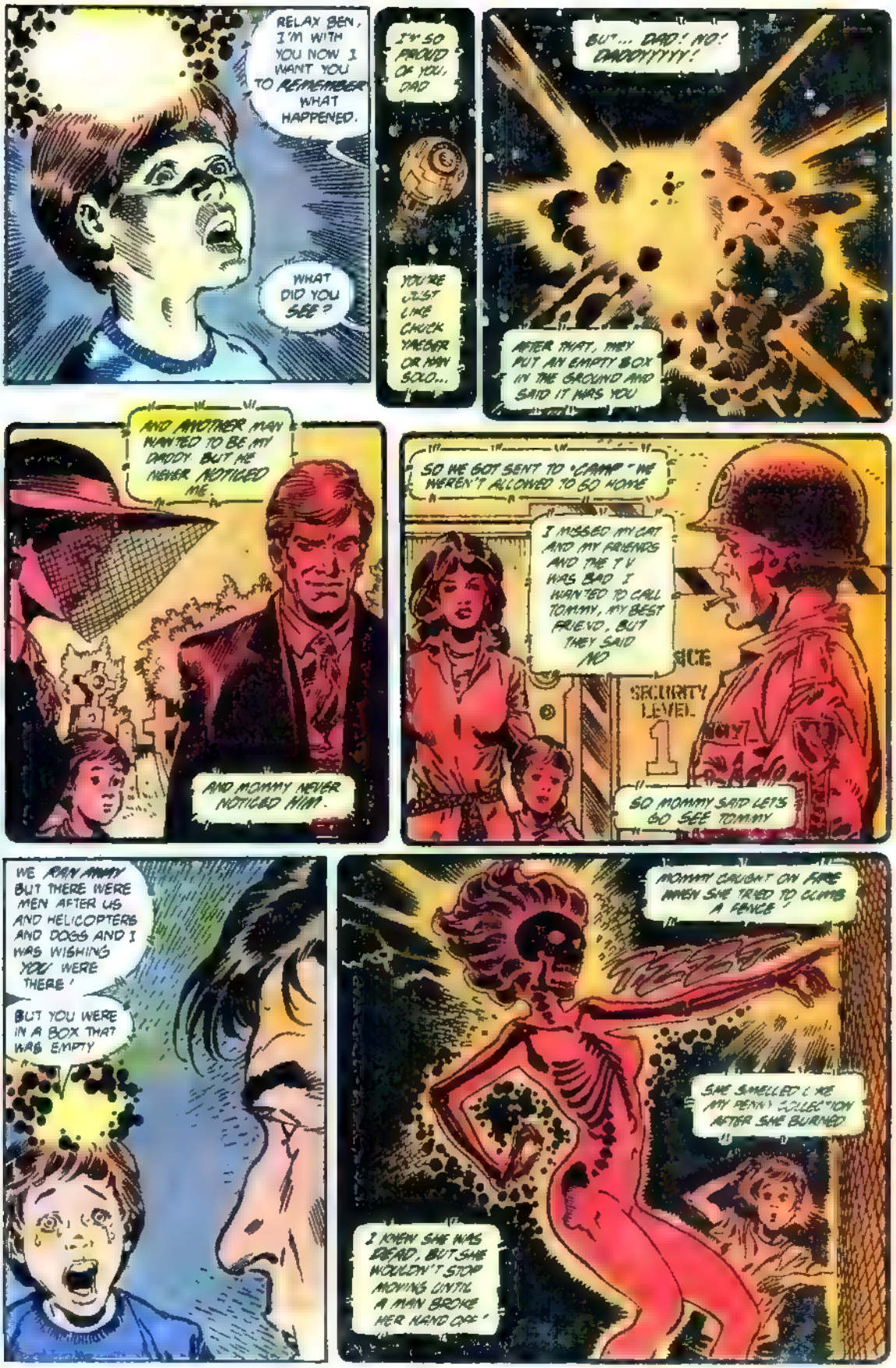
THE COMET MAN

A FAMILY AFFAIR

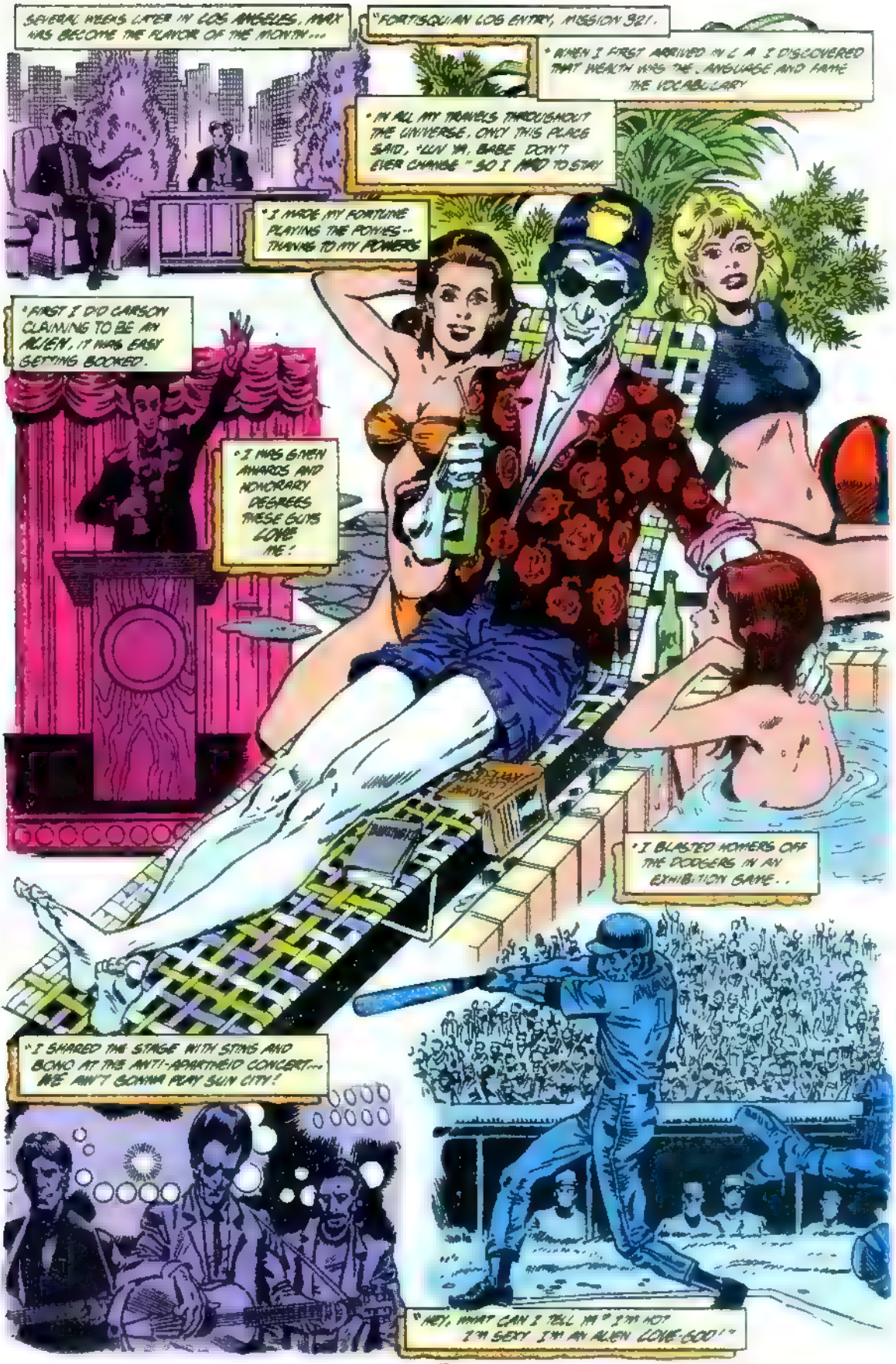
CHAPTER THREE:

REUNION

BENNY! IT'S DAD, BEN
I'M GOING TO TALK TO YOU FROM INSIDE I WON'T HURT YOU, SON
JUST OPEN UP TO ME, LET ME HELP YOU I THINK I CAN BRING YOU BACK, BENNY! COME ON SON -- FOR DAD
:GURGLE: :HIC: AHHHHHHH
WHAT GOOD IS HAVING THESE "TELEKINETIC" POWERS IF I CAN'T USE THEM TO HELP MY OWN BOY?
IN THE PAST FEW MONTHS OF TRAINING WITH MAX, I'VE LEARNED SO MUCH! IT'S GOT TO WORK!
WHOOSH!


RELAX BEN, I'M WITH YOU NOW. I WANT YOU TO REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED.
WHAT DID YOU SEE?
I'M SO PROUD OF YOU, DAD
YOU'RE JUST LIKE CHUCK YAEGER OR HAN SOLO...
BUT... DAD! NO! DADDYYYYY!
AFTER THAT, THEY PUT AN EMPTY BOX IN THE GROUND AND SAID IT WAS YOU
AND ANOTHER MAN WANTED TO BE MY DADDY. BUT HE NEVER NOTICED ME.
AND MOMMY NEVER NOTICED HIM.
SO WE GOT SENT TO "CAMP" WE WEREN'T ALLOWED TO GO HOME
I MISSED MY CAT AND MY FRIENDS AND THE T.V. WAS BAD. I WANTED TO CALL TOMMY, MY BEST FRIEND, BUT THEY SAID NO
SECURITY LEVEL 1
SO MOMMY SAID LET'S GO SEE TOMMY
WE RAN AWAY BUT THERE WERE MEN AFTER US AND HELICOPTERS AND DOGS AND I WAS WISHING YOU WERE THERE!
BUT YOU WERE IN A BOX THAT WAS EMPTY
MOMMY CAUGHT ON FIRE WHEN SHE TRIED TO CLIMB A FENCE!
SHE SMELLED LIKE MY PENNY COLLECTION AFTER SHE BURNED
I KNEW SHE WAS DEAD, BUT SHE WOULDN'T STOP MOVING UNTIL A MAN BROKE HER HAND OFF!

THEN ALL I KNEW WAS PAIN! DR. FROG-EYES WAS ALWAYS HURTING ME NO MATTER HOW MUCH I BEGGED HIM TO STOP. I WANTED TO BE WITH MOMMY
THEN YOU CAME AND "WOKE" ME UP. I NEVER FELT SO WEIRD
I FOUND OUT THAT WHAT I COULD THINK, WOULD HAPPEN!
AND ALL I COULD THINK OF WAS THE PAIN!
DR. FROG-EYES HAD TO PAY. HE'S ONLY DEAD IN THE DAYTIME. I KEEP HIM ALIVE SOMEWHERE IN MY HEAD.. EVERY SECOND HE SCREAMS TO ME
PHOOM
AFTER THAT, I FELT REAL TIRED AND I DON'T REMEMBER MUCH
MY GOD.. HOW WILL I EVER MAKE IT UP TO HIM?
BENNY, ALL THAT NEVER HAPPENED. IT WAS JUST A BAD DREAM, AND NOW THAT DREAM IS OVER! LET IT GO, SON AND COME BACK TO ME
DAD?
YES BEN DAD'S HERE NOW AND I'M NEVER LEAVING YOU AGAIN


SEVERAL WEEKS LATER IN LOS ANGELES, MARX WAS BECOME THE FLAVOR OF THE MONTH...
"FORTISQUIAN LOG ENTRY, MISSION 321.
"WHEN I FIRST ARRIVED IN L.A. I DISCOVERED THAT WEALTH WAS THE ONLY LANGUAGE AND FAME THE VOCABULARY.
"IN ALL MY TRAVELS THROUGHOUT THE UNIVERSE, ONLY THIS PLACE SAID, 'LUV YA, BABE, DON'T EVER CHANGE.' SO I AMD TO STAY.
"I MADE MY FORTUNE PLAYING THE POWERS -- THANKS TO MY POWERS.
"FIRST I DID CARSON CLAIMING TO BE AN ALIEN. IT WAS EASY GETTING BOOKED.
"I WAS GIVEN AWARDS AND HONORARY DEGREES. THESE GUYS LOVE ME!
"I BLASTED HOMERS OFF THE DODGERS IN AN EXHIBITION GAME..
"I SHARED THE STAGE WITH STING AND BONO AT THE ANTI-APARTHEID CONCERT... WE AIN'T GONNA PLAY SUN CITY!
"HEY, WHAT CAN I TELL YA? I'M HOT. I'M SEXY. I'M AN ALIEN LOVE-GOD!"

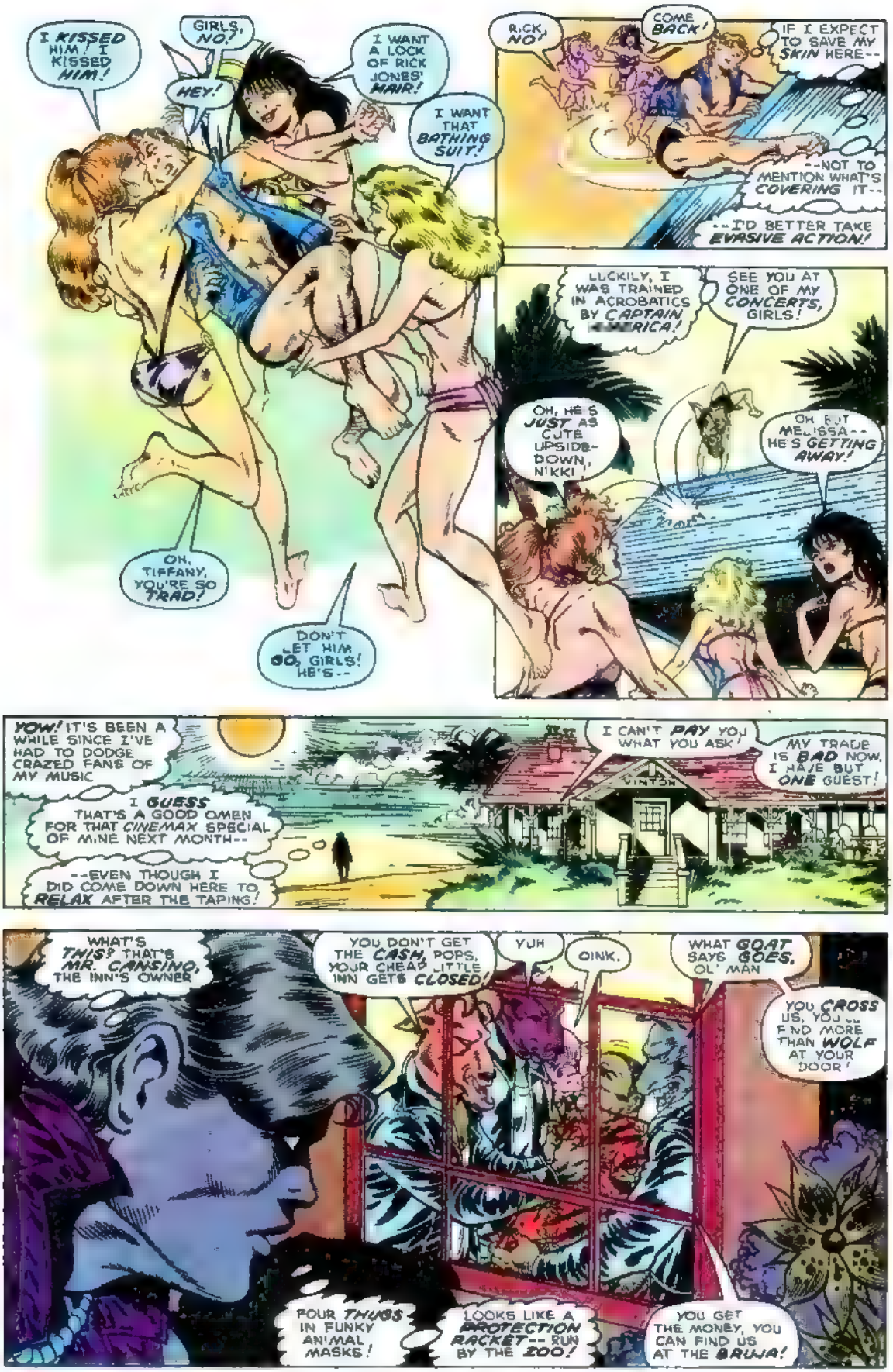
ON HIS WAY TO NEW YORK FOR A TELEVISION APPEARANCE, MAX DECIDES TO DROP IN ON STEPHEN...
YOU CALL THIS FOOD?!
MY HEADPHONES DON'T WORK!
LATER, AT JONATHAN GALLAGHER'S ESTATE...
MAX THIS IS MY SISTER, ROSEMARY, OUR HOST JONATHAN AND OF COURSE MY SON BEN
PLEASED TO MEETCHA
WE'VE BEEN WATCHING YOU ON TELEVISION
I'D LOVE A BEER PAL, MUCHAS GRACIAS.
CAN I GET YOU A DRINK MAX?
SAY BENNY MY MAN HOW'S IT HANGIN', DUDE?
YES I SEE HE'S COMING ALONG FINE THE SYNAPSES ARE RECONNECTED NICELY WELL DONE STEVIE!
NEAT ROBOT, BEN
HE CAN BE A CAR, TOO
U2
ALL RIGHT-- IMPORTED! I'VE NEVER HAD THIS BEER BEFORE
HEY STEVIE, YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO WEAR THAT OUTFIT JUST FOR ME
I DIDN'T.. I STILL HAVE UNFINISHED BUSINESS TO COMPLETE MAX
THERE'S STILL THE MATTER OF MY BROTHER "THE SUPERIOR." I'M GOING TO FIND HIM AND BRING HIM DOWN.
HMMM..
THAT'S TOP OF THE LIST FOR ME!
I FIGURED YOU GUYS HAD KISSED AND MADE UP I MEAN, YOU'RE STAYING HERE IN HIS PAD HE BUYS GOOD BREWSKI TOO
WHAT?!?

STEPHEN, I'M NOT SURE I UNDERSTAND YOUR FRIEND MAX CORRECTLY--
--BUT IF HE'S IMPLYING THAT I AM YOUR BROTHER, THEN HE'S BADLY MISTAKEN!
HEY, MAN, I DON'T MAKE MISTAKES.
JON?! MY BROTHER?!... OH GOD..
I KNOW YOU!
EXCUSE THE MENTAL INTRUSION JONATHAN BUT IT'S THE ONLY WAY I CAN BE SURE!
NO! GET.. GET OUT. GET OUT OF MY MIND!... I... I... AHHHH.
MY GOD! IT'S TRUE!
JONATHAN IS MY BROTHER! HE'S COMPLETELY PSYCHOTIC! LORD, SO MANY SICK, TWISTED MEMORIES...
COOL ENERGY TRAIL, BENNY.
BENNY?!
I KNOW YOU!
YOU KILLED MY MOTHER!
I'M STUCK IN JONATHAN'S MIND! BENNY WILL KILL US BOTH! MUSTN'T PANIC. GAIN CONTROL...
ACKK!
YOU BECKLEY EARTHLINGS ARE TOO MUCH! THIS IS GREAT!
WOK!
UGH... HAD TO GET OUT
NOW, ALL OF YOU BACK OFF-- OR I'LL PAINT THE WALLS WITH HER BRAINS! HEY, I MIGHT DO IT JUST FOR FUN!
NOTHING PERSONAL, SWEETHEART.
SMACK

SO, THE CAT'S OUT OF THE BAG SOONER THAN I PLANNED... BUT YOU KNOW WHAT? I DON'T REALLY CARE!
OUR DARLING SISTER SEEMS ALL CHOKED UP BY THIS WARM FAMILY REUNION! WHAT'S THE MATTER STEPHEN? AREN'T YOU ENJOYING YOURSELF?
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
I CAN'T RISK PITCHING THOUGHT INTO HIM! HE COULD BLOW MY HEAD OFF BEFORE I TOOK CONTROL!
LET HER GO, JONATHAN THIS IS BETWEEN ME AND YOU!
YOU'RE WRONG BROTHER! IT'S BETWEEN ME AND EVERYONE NAMED BECKLEY! SOMETHING I WAS ALWAYS DENIED!
AND YOU'LL ALL PAY FOR IT--WITH YOUR STINKING LIVES! BECAUSE I'M BETTER THAN YOU! I'M THE SUPERIOR!
PTEUW
PTEUW
POW
POW
YOU'RE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEATH OF MY WIFE! YOU MURDERED OUR PARENTS!
YOU HAD MY SON GENETICALLY ALTERED SO YOU COULD GAIN MY POWERS! YOU'VE EVEN ABUSED YOUR OWN SISTER!
TELL ME SOMETHING I DON'T ALREADY KNOW.
YOU'RE OUT OF BULLETS

YOU FILTHY ANIMAL!
WHUP
GET AWAY FROM HIM ROSEY!
I'VE BEEN IN YOUR MIND, JONATHAN. YOU DID GET A RAW DEAL! OUR MOTHER SHOULDN'T HAVE GIVEN YOU AWAY AS A BABY.
WOK
BUT NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU, THERE'S NO JUSTIFICATION FOR THE THINGS YOU'VE DONE! AND NOW IT'S YOUR TIME TO PAY!
THOOM
UHH... SEEMS WE RESEMBLE EACH OTHER IN MORE THAT JUST LOOKS, EH, LITTLE BROTHER?
YOU SEE. I THINK IT FEELS GOOD TO HURT SOMEONE WHO HURTS YOU...
I GUESS YOU DO TOO.
YOU SPEAK WELL, JONATHAN. BUT I'M THROUGH LISTENING.
PREPARE TO DIE!
NEXT ISSUE: THE BLOODY CONCLUSION!

ON A BEACH NEAR SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO, ITINERANT ROCK STAR RICK JONES ATTEMPTS TO ENJOY A QUIET VACATION
A PRETTY VAIN ATTEMPT AS IT HAPPENS
AACK! OH, IT'S THE RICKSTER!
OH, I'M DYING, MELISSA! TAKE MY PULSE, RICKY!
RICK! WE WANT YOUR RESPECT, RICK!
AW, NO-- GROUPIES!
IF I'M THIS POPULAR, HOW COME MY LATEST ALBUM ISN'T ON CD AUTOMATICALLY?
UH, NO, ACTUALLY-- I'M HIS BROTHER, JACK JONES--!
QUINCY JONES?
ELTON JONES?
NOW, GIRLS, DON'T GET CARRIED AWAY--
LAST RESORT
STARRING: RICK JONES


I KISSED HIM! I KISSED HIM!
GIRLS, NO!
HEY!
I WANT A LOCK OF RICK JONES' HAIR!
I WANT THAT BATHING SUIT!
OH, TIFFANY, YOU'RE SO TRAD!
DON'T LET HIM GO, GIRLS! HE'S--
RICK, NO!
COME BACK!
IF I EXPECT TO SAVE MY SKIN HERE--
--NOT TO MENTION WHAT'S COVERING IT--
--I'D BETTER TAKE EVASIVE ACTION!
LUCKILY, I WAS TRAINED IN ACROBATICS BY CAPTAIN AMERICA!
SEE YOU AT ONE OF MY CONCERTS, GIRLS!
OH, HE'S JUST AS CUTE UPSIDE-DOWN, NIKKI!
OH, BUT MELISSA-- HE'S GETTING AWAY!
YOW! IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I'VE HAD TO DODGE CRAZED FANS OF MY MUSIC
I GUESS THAT'S A GOOD OMEN FOR THAT CINEMAX SPECIAL OF MINE NEXT MONTH--
--EVEN THOUGH I DID COME DOWN HERE TO RELAX AFTER THE TAPING!
I CAN'T PAY YOU WHAT YOU ASK!
VINTON
MY TRADE IS BAD NOW, I HAVE BUT ONE GUEST!
WHAT'S THIS? THAT'S MR. CANSINO, THE INN'S OWNER
YOU DON'T GET THE CASH, POPS, YOUR CHEAP LITTLE INN GETS CLOSED!
YUH
OINK.
WHAT GOAT SAYS GOES, OL' MAN
YOU CROSS US, YOU -- FIND MORE THAN WOLF AT YOUR DOOR!
FOUR THUGS IN FUNKY ANIMAL MASKS!
LOOKS LIKE A PROTECTION RACKET-- RUN BY THE ZOO!
YOU GET THE MONEY, YOU CAN FIND US AT THE BRUJA!

AN' HERE'S JUST A SAMPLE OF WHAT'LL HAPPEN TO THIS PLACE IF YOU HOLD OUT!
CRASH!
OOCH! PROPERTY DAMAGE!
YOU GOT TILL THE END OF THE WEEK!
MR CANSINO--?
MR JONES, I HAVE TO INFORM YOU THAT MY VINTON INN IS CLOSING IMMEDIATELY YOU'LL HAVE TO LEAVE.
...MUCH AS I REGRET IT
THEN WHY DO IT?
I HEARD IT ALL, MR CANSINO I KNOW ABOUT THAT GANG OF UH, ANIMALS!
YOU CAN'T JUST CAVE IN THIS WAY!
AH, THE DEALS OF YOUTH
YOU ARE NOT AN OLD MAN... WITH NO DEFENSES AND MUCH TO LOSE
I KNOW THAT YOU CAN'T JUST LET THEM WIN LIKE THIS!
YOU HAVE TO STAND UP FOR YOURSELF AGAINST OPPRESSION--
--HAVE THE COURAGE OF YOUR CONVICTIONS.
IF THERE'S ANYTHING I LEARNED FROM CAPTAIN AMERICA--
AH, THE AMERICAN CAPTAIN--YOU HAVE READ OF HIS ADVENTURES, PERHAPS, OR WATCHED HIS ANIMATED CARTOONS.
THAT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THE WAY SMALL PEOPLE LIVE THEIR LIVES.
HEY, BUT--!
MY THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT, BUT YOU CANNOT HELP--NOR CAN THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES--AGAINST SUCH VANDALS. THEY ATTACK AND THEN FADE INTO THE NIGHT WOODS.
THE ONLY HOPE WOULD BE FROM SOME OF YOUR AMERICAN VIGILANTE SUPER HEROES--BUT...
YOU MUST LEAVE SOON, MR. JONES. I CANNOT KEEP THE INN OPEN.

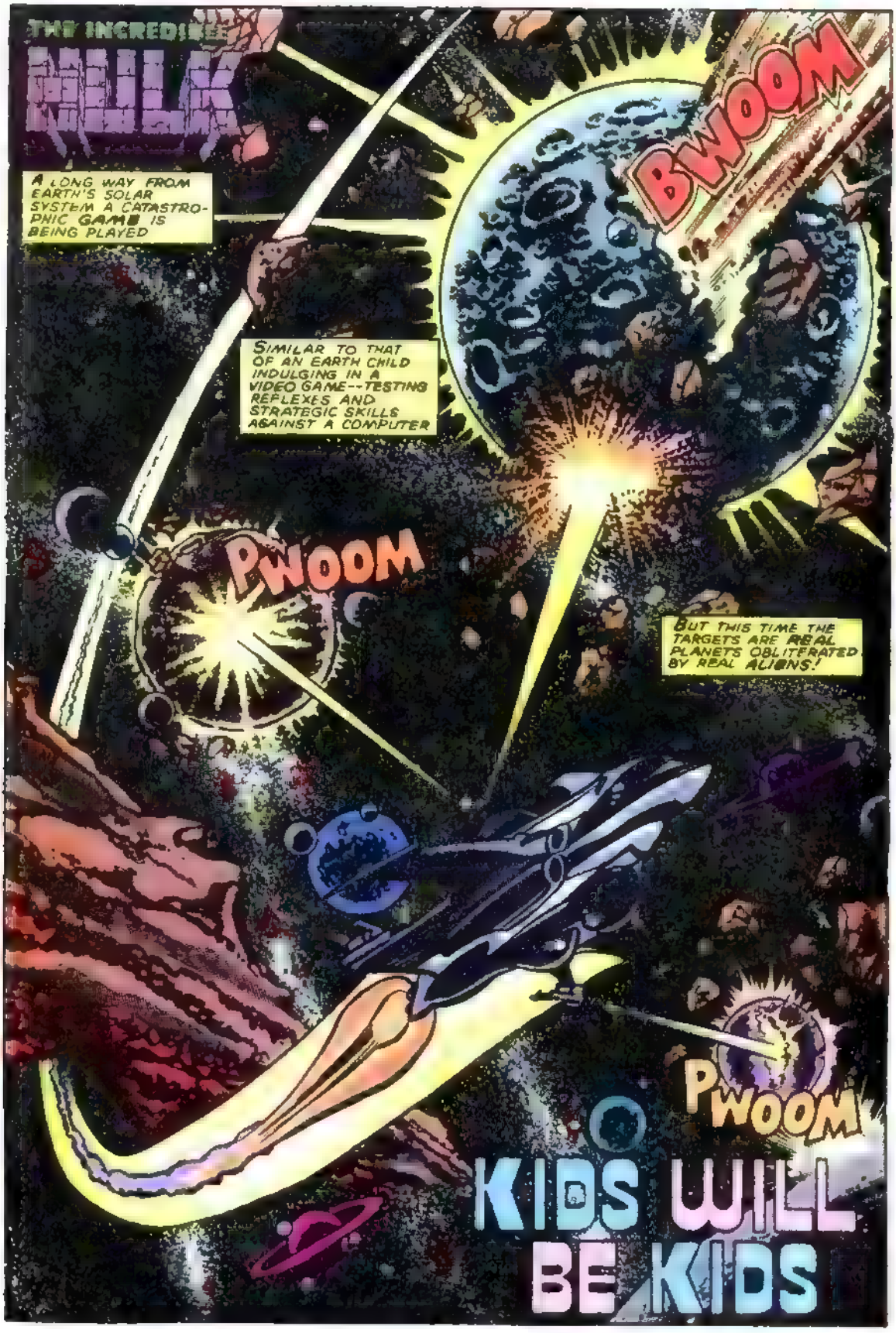
MR. CANSINO IS WRONG IF HE THINKS I'M GOING TO LET HIM FOLD THAT EASILY
YEAH, DICK JONES. SELFLESS CRUSADER FOR--HUH? AW, JEEZ!
THAT'S NOT MY STYLE!
I WONDER IF HE'S GONNA CHARGE ME FOR THE TOWEL I LOST WHEN THOSE GIRLS JUMPED ME?
LATER THAT NIGHT...
OH, I HOPE HE'S AT THIS PLACE, MELISSA
I WANT TO HAVE H S CHILDREN! I'LL EVEN ADOPT SOME!
THEM AGAIN!
ANOTHER NARROW ESCAPE TO ADD TO THE JONES JOURNALS.
THE PUNKS SAID THEY HANG OUT AT THE BRUJA NIGHT-CLUB--SO THAT'S MY NEXT STOP
AND SO
SOME DIVE!
BRUJA
A CONVERTED BARN, LOOKS LIKE
I'LL MIX A LITTLE--AND DO SOME FISHING!
NOW THIS JOINT IS JUMPIN'! LOOKS LIKE THE "DIRTY DANCING" TOUR'S FINAL EXAMS!
I'LL TRY THE MOST OBVIOUS PLACE FIRST--THE BAR!
A DOS EQUIS PLEASE AND I'D LIKE A LITTLE INFORMATION...
QUE?
.. ABOUT A QUARTET OF ANIMAL HEADS--
WHAT YOU WANT WITH THE 'VORES, MAN?

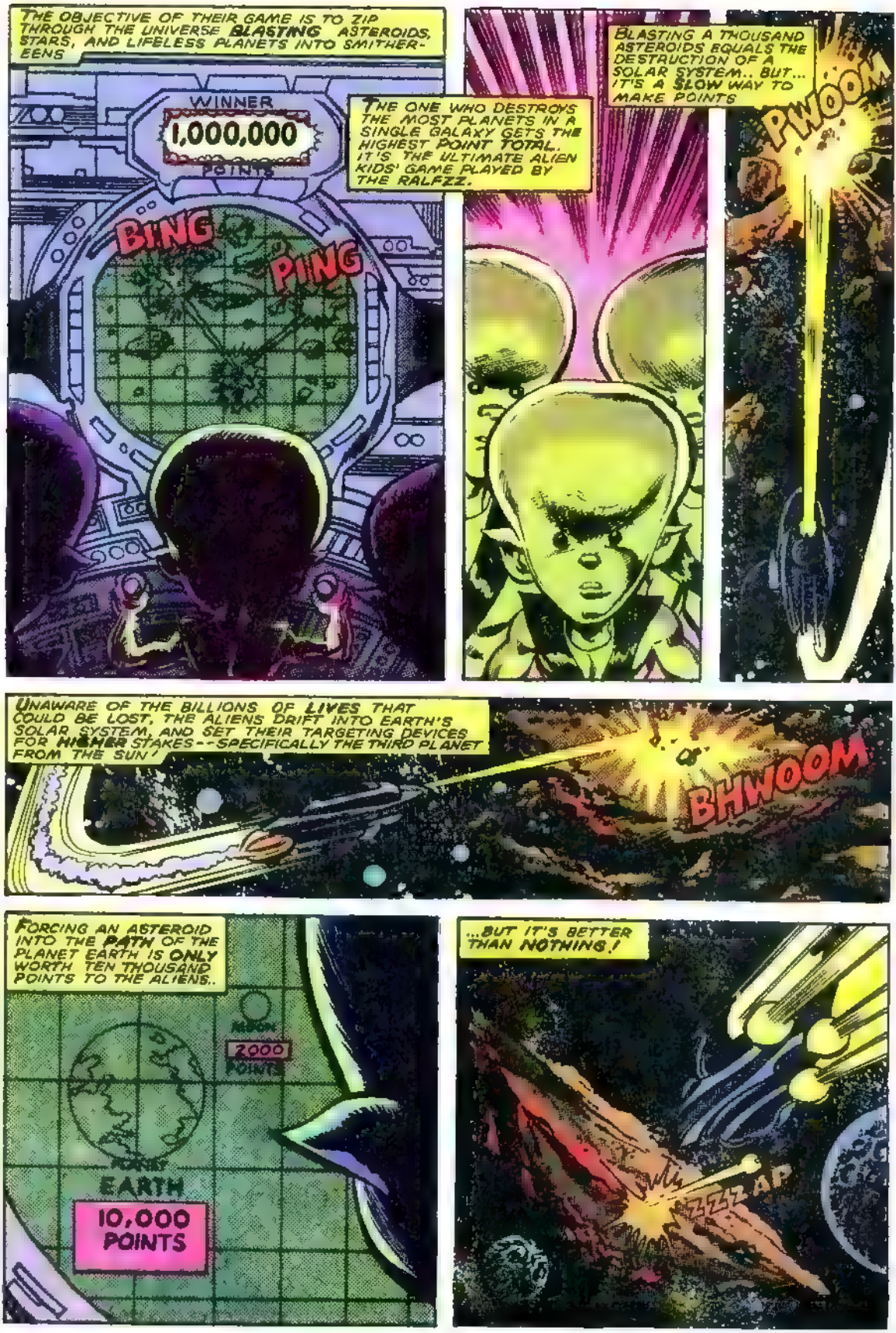
THE 'VORES, HUH? WHICH ONE OF YOU IS MERBY?
WE DON LIKE SMART-TALKIN' TOURISTS, MAN
MAYBE I GIVE YOU A TASTE OF THE WOLF'S FANG
ONLY ROOM FOR ONE PIG HERE, MAN
AN' THAT'S NO BULL HER
HEY! YOU THAT PUNK STAYIN' AT CANSINO'S? YOU BETTER LEAVE SKINNY--YOU GOT NO PLAC TO STAY NO MORE!
BUT I DO-- AND I EVEN HAVE A PLACE FOR YOU TO GO MR GOAT!
YOU NEED A LESSON, KID WE'LL SHOW YOU WHO'S RUNNING THIS ISLAND
FOUR THUGS IN ZOO-MEADS, PUSHING AROUND OLD MEN?
I THINK I CAN HANDLE YOU!
WHAK
AFTER ALL, I'VE BEEN TRAINED IN THE MARTIAL ARTS BY CAPTAIN--
THAK
--CRUNCH.
PUNK!
POWK
UUUUHHHN!
YOU BEEN CHEWED UP AND SPIT OUT BY THE 'VORES, MAN!
GO BACK TO JUMP STREET, PRETTY BOY!
YOU BETTER SPLIT NOW, GO BACK TO YOUR SAFE HOME..
'CAUSE IF YOU'RE STILL HERE TOMORROW NIGHT WE'RE GONNA MESS YOU UP BAD!
AND THAT'S THE LAST THING RICK JONES HEARS FOR THE NEXT HOUR..

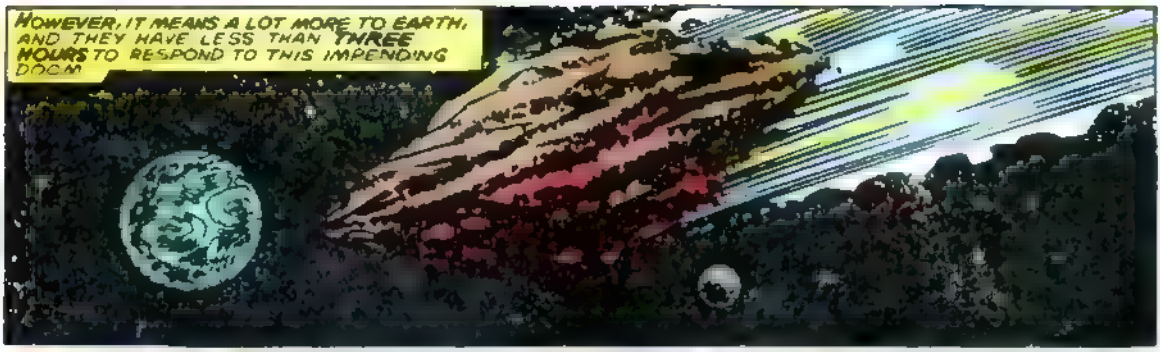
WHEN RICK AWAKENS, THOUGH, HE RETURNS TO THE VINTON INN— SADDER BUT WISER...
SO YOU FOUGHT FOR ME ANYHOW, MR JONES
YOU HAVE MY GRATITUDE, BUT YOU HAVE NO CHANCE!
BUT WHY NOT, MR C?
BECAUSE OF WHAT YOU ARE NOT, BOY!
IN AMERICA, YOU ARE SO FULL OF MEN AND WOMEN WITH GREAT POWERS AND FANTASTIC STRENGTH, YOU FORGET THAT NOT EVERYONE IS LIKE THAT.
YOU ARE JUST A NORMAL MAN, MR JONES, AND NORMAL MEN CANNOT DO WHAT YOUR POWER HEROES CAN DO
IT WOULD TAKE ONE OF THEM TO FIGHT THE GANG, NOT ONE OF US!
GIVE IT UP-- PLEASE!
HE'S WRONG! POWERS ALONE DON'T GIVE YOU A VICTORY! CAP TAUGHT ME THAT--AND THE AVENGERS WIN THROUGH TEAMWORK AND PLANNING AND OUT-SMARTING THE ENEMY!
I SHOULD BE ABLE TO TAKE THOSE GUYS! ALL I NEED IS A PLAN, A CAMPAIGN, A..
YE-E-E-A-A-A-H-H-H!
AND SO, THE NEXT NIGHT ..
MR. JONES, YOU'VE BEEN ALONE HERE ALL DAY, AND NOW THE GAMS, THEY ARE COMING THROUGH THE WOODS FOR YOU!
PLEASE-- FLEE!
YOU FLEE MR C - I'M PREPARED FOR THEM!
GO ON--
--NOW!
SMASH
YOU WERE WARNED, YOU STRUTTING ROOSTER! NOW YOU GET YOUR SMOOTH FACE BEATEN IN!
BOTH YOU AND CANSINO WILL SUFFER FOR YOUR COCKINESS, MAN!
CAN'T YOU TALK ABOUT ANYTHING BUT ANIMALS, GILES GOAT-BOY?
MAYBE IT'S FITTING, THOUGH-- SINCE THIS IS YOUR SWAN SONG!
PIG! WOLF! GET HIM!

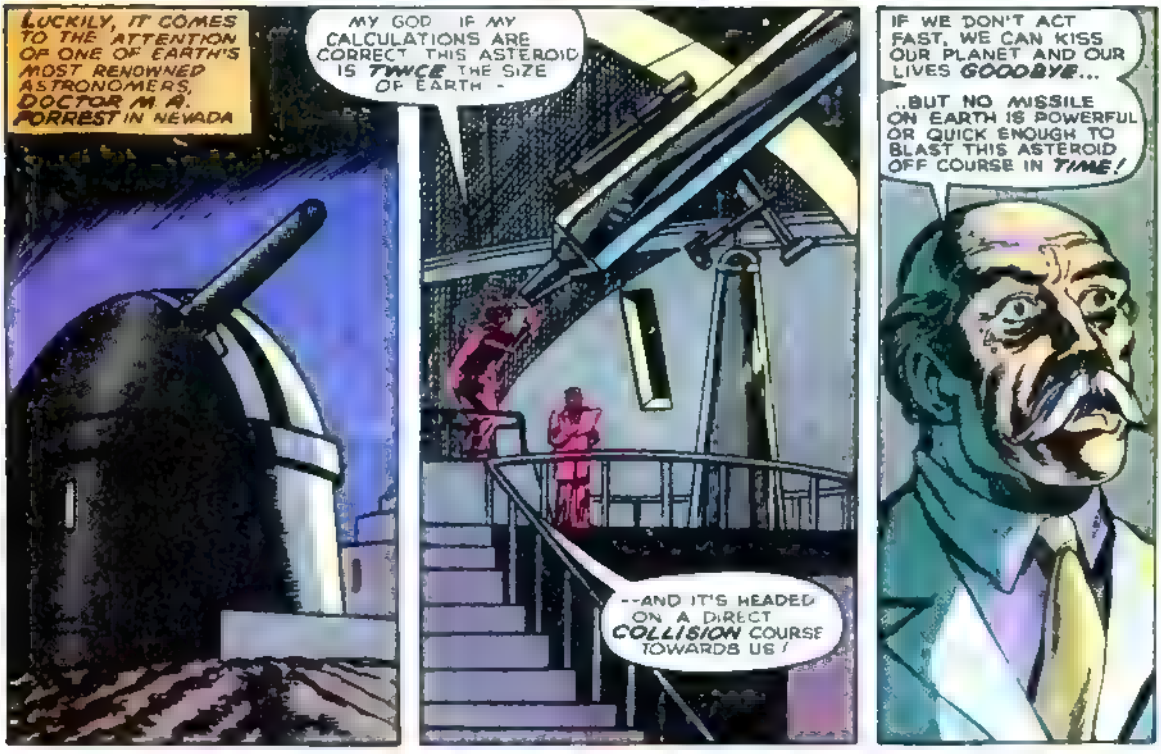
BUT AS THE TWO ADVANCE TOGETHER...
...THEY STEP ONTO A SECRETLY-ALTERED FLOOR PANEL.
CLICK
AND A HIDDEN SPRING SYSTEM IS RELEASED.
...SENDING THEM PLUMMETTING FORWARD-- HEADFIRST INTO THE BAR.
WHUP WHUP
TAKE A FLYING LEAP ON ME, GUYS!
--BUT YOU'LL BE OUT OF IT FOR A WHILE!
THOSE MASKS OF YOURS SHOULD KEEP YOU FROM ANY SERIOUS INJURY--
WHAT--? YOU CAN'T--! BREAK HIM IN HALF, BULL!
COME TO POPPA, SKINNY!
AS I BEGAN TO SAY YESTERDAY-- I WAS TRAINED IN THE MARTIAL ARTS...
BY CAPTAIN AMERICA, THE ONE AND ONLY!
THWAK
AND THAT'S THREE DOWN!
THE NEXT ONE TO FALL IS YOU, PRETTY BOY!
AN' HOPPING BEHIND THE BAR WON'T HELP YOU!
HEY, I'M STAYING ON THE TOP OF THE BAR, MAN--
--JUST WATCH ME!
WATCH CLOSELY...
AND AT THE TOUCH OF A BUTTON--
GOOOOOOOOOD!
--THE LIGHTS EXPLODE IN BLINDING FURY...
...AND THE REIGN OF THE 'VORES IS NO MORE.
YAAAAAH!

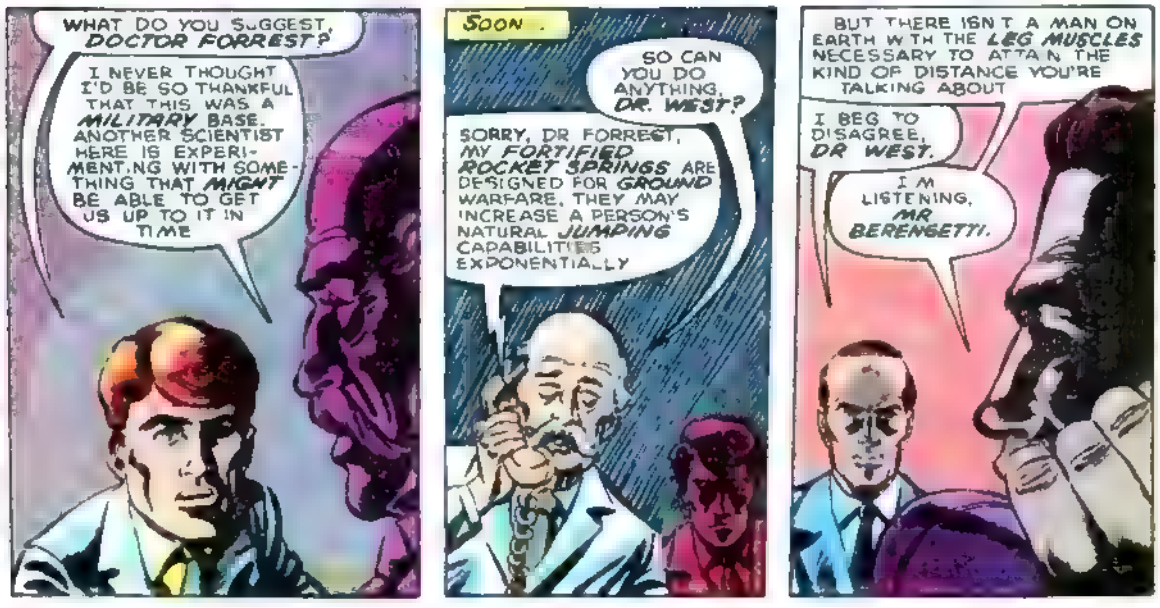
SO ALL THAT REMAINS IS THE VACATION...
AS YOU SAID, MR JONES, WITH THE 'VORE GANG JAILED, WITNESSES ARE SUDDENLY VERY HAPPY TO TESTIFY AGAINST THEM
THE INNKEEPERS OF SAN JUAN OWE YOU A LARGE DEBT!
WELL, IF MY RECORD COMPANY WASN'T PAYING MY FREIGHT HERE, I MIGHT HAVE TAKEN YOU INNKEEPERS UP ON THAT
AS IT IS, DE NADA!
AND MORE 'MPORTANTLY, I HOPE I CHANGED YOUR MIND ABOUT HOW ONLY SUPER HEROES COULD MAKE THOSE CRITTERS SIT UP AND BAA--?
AAH, MR. JONES, YOU WANT TO KEEP UP YOUR LITTLE POSE BEFORE ME, BUT I-- I AM NOT FOOLED!
HUH? NOT FOOLED ABOUT WHAT?
WHY, YOUR SUPER POWERS, OF COURSE!
"I SAW YOU LEVITATE THOSE TWO THUGS INTO THE BAR...
"...USING TELE-KENESIS-- LIKE AMERICA'S MARVEL GIRL!
"THEN YOUR SUPER-SWIFT KICK SURPRISED THE BIG ONE...
"...SWIFT AS THE AVENGER, QUICK-SILVER!
"AND THEN YOU BLINDED THE LEADER WITH A FLARE LIKE THE DAZZLER WOMAN WIELDS!
BUT NO! THOSE WERE ALL TRICKS! I'M JUST A NORMAL GUY!
HEH! IF YOU SAY SO, MR. JONES,
I WILL KEEP YOUR SECRET!
HUH!
YEH, YOU DO THAT LITTLE THING WITH THAT SECRET, MR. CANSINO! YE-E-E-E-E-A-A-A-HHH!
THE IMPORTANT THING IS THAT THE ISLAND'S BACK TO NORMAL.
NOW FINALLY, I CAN RELAX!
THE END.


THE INCREDIBLE HULK
A LONG WAY FROM EARTH'S SOLAR SYSTEM A CATASTROPHIC GAME IS BEING PLAYED
BWOOM
SIMILAR TO THAT OF AN EARTH CHILD INDULGING IN A VIDEO GAME--TESTING REFLEXES AND STRATEGIC SKILLS AGAINST A COMPUTER
PWOOM
BUT THIS TIME THE TARGETS ARE REAL PLANETS OBLITERATED BY REAL ALIENS!
PWOOM
KIDS WILL BE KIDS

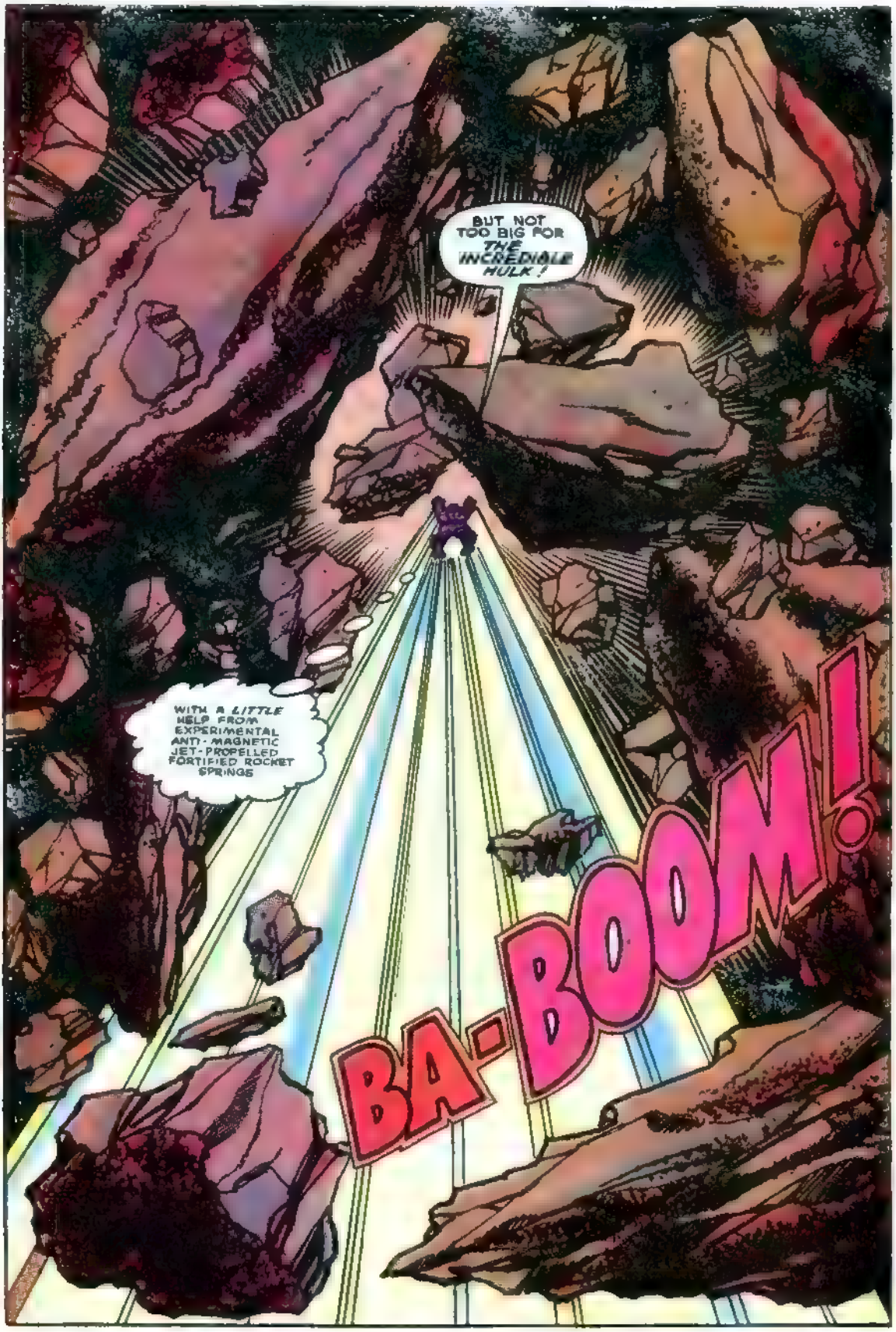

THE OBJECTIVE OF THEIR GAME IS TO ZIP THROUGH THE UNIVERSE BLASTING ASTEROIDS, STARS, AND LIFELESS PLANETS INTO SMITHEREENS
WINNER
1,000,000
POINTS
BING
PING
THE ONE WHO DESTROYS THE MOST PLANETS IN A SINGLE GALAXY GETS THE HIGHEST POINT TOTAL. IT'S THE ULTIMATE ALIEN KIDS' GAME PLAYED BY THE RALFZZ.
BLASTING A THOUSAND ASTEROIDS EQUALS THE DESTRUCTION OF A SOLAR SYSTEM.. BUT... IT'S A SLOW WAY TO MAKE POINTS
PWOOM
UNAWARE OF THE BILLIONS OF LIVES THAT COULD BE LOST, THE ALIENS DRIFT INTO EARTH'S SOLAR SYSTEM, AND SET THEIR TARGETING DEVICES FOR HIGHER STAKES--SPECIFICALLY THE THIRD PLANET FROM THE SUN!
BHWOOM
FORCING AN ASTEROID INTO THE PATH OF THE PLANET EARTH IS ONLY WORTH TEN THOUSAND POINTS TO THE ALIENS..
MOON
2000
POINTS
EARTH
10,000
POINTS
...BUT IT'S BETTER THAN NOTHING!
ZZZZZAP


HOWEVER, IT MEANS A LOT MORE TO EARTH, AND THEY HAVE LESS THAN THREE HOURS TO RESPOND TO THIS IMPENDING DOOM


LUCKILY, IT COMES TO THE ATTENTION OF ONE OF EARTH'S MOST RENOWNED ASTRONOMERS, DOCTOR M.A. FORREST IN NEVADA
MY GOD IF MY CALCULATIONS ARE CORRECT THIS ASTEROID IS TWICE THE SIZE OF EARTH -
--AND IT'S HEADED ON A DIRECT COLLISION COURSE TOWARDS US!
IF WE DON'T ACT FAST, WE CAN KISS OUR PLANET AND OUR LIVES GOODBYE...
..BUT NO MISSILE ON EARTH IS POWERFUL OR QUICK ENOUGH TO BLAST THIS ASTEROID OFF COURSE IN TIME!


WHAT DO YOU SUGGEST, DOCTOR FORREST?
I NEVER THOUGHT I'D BE SO THANKFUL THAT THIS WAS A MILITARY BASE. ANOTHER SCIENTIST HERE IS EXPERIMENTING WITH SOMETHING THAT MIGHT BE ABLE TO GET US UP TO IT IN TIME
SOON .
SO CAN YOU DO ANYTHING, DR. WEST?
SORRY, DR FORREST, MY FORTIFIED ROCKET SPRINGS ARE DESIGNED FOR GROUND WARFARE, THEY MAY INCREASE A PERSON'S NATURAL JUMPING CAPABILITIES EXPONENTIALLY
BUT THERE ISN'T A MAN ON EARTH WITH THE LEG MUSCLES NECESSARY TO ATTAIN THE KIND OF DISTANCE YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT
I BEG TO DISAGREE, DR WEST.
I AM LISTENING, MR BERENGETTI.

THANKS FOR RESPONDING SO QUICKLY, JOE. MY LITTLE INVESTMENT RESEARCH TRIP HERE WAS INTERRUPTED BY A BIT OF AN EMERGENCY...
YOU'RE THE BOSS, BOSS
YOU KNOW, END OF THE WORLD, AND ALL THAT
THE FIRST THING I WANT YOU TO UNDERSTAND, MR..
FIXIT.
YES HMM, MR FIXIT . IS THAT MY INVENTION S STILL IN THE EXPERIMENTAL STAGE AND I CAN'T GUARANTEE--
SO WHAT ELSE IS NEW?
AFTER QUICK EXPLANATIONS...
IF NOT FOR YOUR RELIABLE REPUTATION, BERENGETTI ,
I STILL DON'T BELIEVE THAT HIS STRENGTH--EVEN COMBINED WITH MY ANTI-MAGNETIC TECHNOLOGY--WILL BE ENOUGH...
BELIEVE IT, WEST..
WHAT'S HE DOING?!
HOW DOES HE INTEND TO DESTROY THE ASTEROID IF HE REACHES IT?!
...AND I DON'T NEED THIS POPGUN SLOWING ME DOWN!
HE'LL MANAGE, DR. WEST.
IT IS WORKING.
BWOING
NOT BAD--ALMOST FEELS LIKE I'M FLYING. NEVER LEAPED THIS FAST AND FAR BEFORE.
BUT SUDDENLY THE ROCKET SPRINGS DISINTEGRATE FROM THE FRICTION OF PASSING THROUGH EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE.
HEY, THIS CONTRAPTION WAS SUPPOSED TO GET ME BACK TO EARTH
BUT, I CAN'T WORRY ABOUT THAT RIGHT NOW. I'VE GOT A BIGGER PROBLEM IN FRONT OF ME


BUT NOT TOO BIG FOR THE INCREDIBLE HULK!
WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM EXPERIMENTAL ANTI-MAGNETIC JET-PROPELLED FORTIFIED ROCKET SPRINGS
BA-BOOM!

SHOCKED AND ANGERED BY THE INTERFERENCE IN THEIR GAME, THE ALIEN KIDS WATCH THE SCENE IN FRUSTRATION
THEIR MISSION NOW IS TO INTERCEPT THE BLIP THAT CAUSED THEIR INCONVENIENCE
I'M BEGINNING TO SLOW DOWN BUT IT LOOKS LIKE I'M GOING TO DRIFT FOREVER I WISH I COULD AT LEAST TAKE CONSOLATION IN SAVING THE EARTH BUT WHO CARES?!
WAIT, A SHIP OF SOME SORT HEADING TOWARD ME!
SUDDENLY THE ALIEN SHIP VEERS OVERHEAD AND "ZAPS" THE HULK UP TOWARD THE BODY OF THEIR SHIP
IMMOBILIZED, THE HULK'S MASS OF MUSCLE IS USELESS AS IT ENTERS THE HULL OF THE SHIP...

...BUT NOT FOR LONG!
I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU DUDES ARE, BUT I DON'T THINK YOU MEAN ME--OR EARTH--ANY GOOD!
SKRNCH
TEK
THE ALIENS, REALIZING THEY HAVE A HOSTILE BEING ON BOARD, MOVE TO SECURE THEIR SHIP AND SUBDUE THE GRAY MASS OF MUSCLE.
A CALL GOES OUT TO THEIR ALIEN SECURITY ROBOT, WHICH NORMALLY WAITS ONBOARD THEIR SHIP.
TELEPATHICALLY THEY TELL THE HULK HE WILL PAY FOR INTERFERING WITH THE ASTEROID THAT WOULD HAVE RACKED UP BIG POINTS FOR THEM.
HEY! THAT DON'T TICKLE, YOU PILE OF OVERHEATED WIRES!
KLAT
WHAAM
THA
OOM
I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THIS GAME!
THAT WAS EASY... BUT IT GOT ME REALLY MAD!

WHAT DO YOU GUYS THINK YOU'RE DOING?! YOU ALMOST DESTROYED MY PLANET--AND THAT WOULD HAVE SERIOUSLY INCONVENIENCED ME.
HORRIFIED AND ASHAMED, THE ALIENS EXPLAIN TO THE HULK THAT THEY DIDN'T MEAN TO HURT ANYONE.
THEY JUST... FORGOT TO CHECK TO SEE IF THE PLANET EARTH WAS INHABITED WITH LIFE.
THEY WILL RETURN THE HULK BACK TO HIS HOME PLANET AND END THIS GAME OF DESTRUCTION.
THE ALIENS READ THE HULK'S MEMORY AND PINPOINT THE LOCATION HE WAS LAUNCHED FROM.
HE'S BACK, BERENGETTI! BUT... WHAT IS THAT...THING?!
I'M AFRAID HE'LL PROBABLY TELL ME, DR. WEST.
I HOPE THOSE ALIEN KIDS LEARNED THEY CAN'T GO AROUND DESTROYING THE GALAXY. BUT THEY DID SORTA REMIND ME OF ME...
...KIDS WILL BE KIDS.
THE END.

MARVEL® READERS PRESENT

c/o MARVEL COMICS GROUP 387 Park Avenue South, New York, N.Y. 10016

Attention correspondents. All letters to be considered for publication must include your name and address though we will withhold that info by request!

TERRY KAVANAGH
Editor

KELLY CORVESE
Assistant Editor

Dear Terry,

Lately, every time I pick up an issue of MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS I am inclined to write. This is largely due to the great work John Buscema is doing on Wolverine. Issue #44 is no exception. And, although John Buscema penciled Wolverine in earlier issues of MCP, it should be noted that it was not in his regular garb.

John Byrne's rendition of Wolverine in his regular book is quite good, but we've seen him do stuff much like it while he was doing the X-MEN. You kind of know what to expect. But what is happening in MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS is fresh and exciting. I'd like to know where all those critics are who were so down on Mr. Buscema's art on Wolverine when he began his own series! I wonder what they think now. As a matter of fact, even if this letter doesn't get printed, I'll be keeping my eyes on the letters page to see what other people think.

By the way, I haven't forgotten about the Wonder Man, Doctor Strange, or Puma stories. They were all pretty decent. It's just that "Black Shadow, White Shadow" has totally overwhelmed me. And to be quite honest with you, this was the Wolverine explosion I have long been waiting for. Thank you!

Derrick Perkins
(Address withheld by request)

No, thank *you*, Derek. How can we not print a letter like this? We hope you kept your eyes on the letters page so you can see this! Your letter was the Derrick Perkins explosion we were all waiting for here at MARVEL READERS PRESENTS. . .

Dear Terry,

With MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #44, the Wolverine story got a little bit less dull. The ruins, the Manichean struggle between the Shadow and its opposite, the sleeping figure on the throne; all are reminiscent of a Robert E. Howard Conan or Solomon Kane story. Still, John Buscema is not at his absolute best here, and the build-up has been entirely too long. "Black Shadow, White Shadow" is only getting to the meat of the story during part seven of ten, and I think that took a little too much time.

Somewhat the same problem afflicts the Wonder Man serial—it is only in the second to last installment that it has become interesting. The best elements of "Stardust Miseries" are the varied references to past stories—mentions of Zemo pere, Bucky and the Memory Inducer.

Contrary to pattern, neither of the eight-pagers was too amazingly bad. The Doctor Strange/Rintrah story was above average filler, and the Puma one was sort of . . . Zen. However, Mishkin writes Fireheart too soft. Remember, he is not just a super hero or a bounty hunter, but in fact an assassin for hire, as bad as any common hit man, despite his origins and power.

Bradford R. Poston
4075 E. River Rd.
Tucson, AZ 85718

Ah, but don't forget that he is a noble and honorable hit man, Bradford. So he can probably be a philanthropic type once in a while—as long as none of his clients see him like that. As for the rest of your letter, well it wasn't quite as complimentary as Derek's letter ("a little less dull" is not quite as powerful as "totally overwhelmed me"), but we're really pleased you wrote anyway. Keep writing!

Dear Marvel guys,

This is my first letter to a Marvel comic. I just started collecting your books about six months ago, and I must say that I enjoy MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS the most out of all the books I collect. I really hope you keep Wolverine as the headliner. I'm sorry to say, though, that I've found a mistake and I'm going for a No-Prize. In issue #44, page 3, panel 5, you show Wolverine "snikting" out his claws. This is clearly out. My suggestion to you to show this was not an error is that between panels four and five, Wolverine puts his claws in to crack his knuckles before he cracks some heads. I hope this was exceptional enough for a No-Prize.

All in all, I really enjoy your magazine. I think that Marv Wolfman and John Buscema are really doing a fine job with what happens to be my favorite character. Keep up the great work, guys.

Timothy W. Williams
500 Powell St.
Gloucester City, NJ 02030

Wait! Hold on a second! You say you found a mistake in our book? We'll just have to take a look at that first if you don't mind, Timothy. *Hmmm*, it looks like you're right. There is a "snikt" where there shouldn't be one. And, we might add, that we've never seen anyone use "snikt" as a verb before, so you should get some credit for that. But your answer really isn't quite creative enough to get a No-Prize, sorry. Also, we can't really go around giving them to people waiting 29 years for one of these. Actually, if you read on, you'll see someone else trying for a No-Prize also. Let's see if he can get one . . .

Dear Marvel,

I just read issue #44. It was very good except that I found a mistake in it. On page three, panel five, why do Wolvie's claws make those "SNIKT" sounds when they've already been out since panel two of the same page. Here are a couple of my solutions. Could it be:

1) The echo from panel two?
2) The cry of an exotic bird passing nearby?
3) That he closed and opened them between panels four and five?
4) That they came from the chains of Mai and Ch'un?
5) Coins falling from his pockets?
6) Wolverine's new ventriloquism power?

I hope one of these can be worth a No-Prize, and even if they're not, keep up the good work.

Sebastion Roof
35 Coureau
Cap-de-la-Madeleine, Quebec
Canada G8V-1K3

Wow, quite an array of answers to choose from, Sebastion. *Hmmm*, this is really a tough call for us. We've never had a multiple choice No-Prize suggestion before, but it is pretty impressive. We guess we'll have to go with #2, the cry of an exotic bird passing nearby. By suggesting this, you have bailed us out of a jam, and thus you deserve a No-Prize. Enjoy it, Sebastion, you really deserve it! Now let's get off this subject, okay?

Dear Marvel,

Over the last 44 issues of this book, I am amazed at the quality of the writing and the art in these pages. It has been no less than superb in each and every issue. However, this does not mean it is perfect, by any stretch of the imagination!

At this book's beginnings almost everyone agreed that this title had to be something special to be successful. After all, what other book in the "Mighty Marvel Universe" features three to four eight-page stories of popular (Willie Lumpkin???) Marvel characters! But the stories had to mean something for this book to work. By this I mean that this book has to be totally different from the rest of the Marvel Universe, by introducing new characters or change the Marvel Universe in a way that people will take notice. In other words, this book should open new doorways for other characters to follow-up in their own titles.

For instance, the first ten issues of this book were terrific, because they gave the reader a little taste of everything. Tyger Tiger in the Wolverine installments is now often seen in the pages of Wolverine's own book. The Man-Thing installments were also very good, not only for the story, but just the fact that it brought back an old character that the readers haven't seen in a while. Even the one-parters were exceptional, because even though they were light and sometimes humorous, they showed us that super heroes do have fear just like anyone else.

A story such as the Cyclops saga was *excellent* because it brought back an old character (namely Banshee), and thrust him into the spotlight, as now he is forming a new X-MEN team in the X-MEN book. These are the types of hard-hitting epics that I would enjoy seeing more of and I'm sure that other readers would also.

Patrick MacLaughlin
3851 Baker School Rd.
Trafford, PA 15085

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